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July 25, 2001

BOX PATENT APPLICATION  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: Application of Giovanni TRAVERSO  
VIRTUAL CONCATENATION OF OPTICAL CHANNELS IN WDM NETWORKS  
Assignee: ALCATEL  
Our Ref. Q65519

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto is the application identified above including 14 sheets of the specification, including the claims and abstract, 3 sheet(s) of drawings, executed Assignment and PTO 1595 form, and executed Declaration and Power of Attorney. Also enclosed is the Information Disclosure Statement and PTO form 1449, and Preliminary Amendment.

**PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT BEFORE  
CALCULATING THE FEE**

The Government filing fee is calculated as follows:

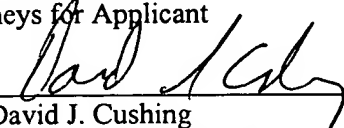
|                    |    |   |    |   |   |   |         |   |          |
|--------------------|----|---|----|---|---|---|---------|---|----------|
| Total claims       | 11 | - | 20 | = |   | x | \$18.00 | = | \$0.00   |
| Independent claims | 4  | - | 3  | = | 1 | x | \$80.00 | = | \$80.00  |
| Base Fee           |    |   |    |   |   |   |         |   | \$710.00 |

|                           |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>TOTAL FILING FEE</b>   | <b>\$790.00</b> |
| Recordation of Assignment | \$40.00         |
| <b>TOTAL FEE</b>          | <b>\$830.00</b> |

Checks for the statutory filing fee of \$790.00 and Assignment recordation fee of \$40.00 are attached. You are also directed and authorized to charge or credit any difference or overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 and any petitions for extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 which may be required during the entire pendency of the application to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is attached.

Priority is claimed from July 28, 2000 based on Italian Application No. MI2000A001731. The priority document is enclosed herewith.

Respectfully submitted,  
SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN,  
MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC  
Attorneys for Applicant

By:   
David J. Cushing  
Registration No. 28,703

1-c978 U.S. PTO  
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07/25/01